

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-11 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /102 W

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R 101638Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 723

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1813

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYJKAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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TAGS: ELAB, ETUC, ICFTU, SP, EEC

SUBJECT: ETUC PRESS CONFERENCE ON SPAIN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 2237

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING A MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE ACTING
ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY PEER CARLSEN REITERATED ETUC SUPPORT
FOR ITS AFFILIATES IN SPAIN AND OUTLINED WHAT HE TERMED PRECONDITIONS
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FOR ETUC SUPPORT FOR SPANISH ACCEPTANCE" BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

AND OTHER EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID THE ETUC HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM THE PUBLIC IN EUROPE ABOUT THE TRUTH IN SPAIN IN ORDER TO COUNTERBALANCE "TRIPS MADE BY SPANISH DIPLOMATS PAINTING FALSE PICTURES." CARLSEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE ETUC WOULD SEND 30,000 FRENCH FRANCES IN STRIKE AID TO STRIKING MINERS IN ASTURIA. ON MARCH 8, CARLSEN TOLD A GROUP OF BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES THAT SPAINSH WORKER COMMISSIONS WOULD HAVE TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR TRADE UNION FREEDOM IN SPAIN AND REFERRED TO SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER MARCELINO CAMACHO AS A MAN OF HIGH INTELLIGENCE AND A BONA FIDE TRADE UNION LEADER. END SUMMARY.

2. AT A SPECIAL ETUC PRESS CONFERENCE ON SPAIN ON MARCH 9, ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY CARLSEN OUTLINED SIX PRECONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE MET BEFORE THE ETUC COULD SUPPORT SPANISH ADMISSION TO THE COMMON MARKET AND OTHER EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AS FOLLOWS: (1) RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; (2) FULL RESTORATION OF HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS; (3) FREEDOM FOR TRADE UNIONS TO OPERATE; (4) FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO OPERATE; (5) FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL EXILES TO RETURN; AND (6) ELECTIONS UNDER UNIVERSAL DIRECT SUFFRAGE. CARLSEN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THESE DEMANDS WERE DRAWN UP IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADERS OF THE ETUC'S AFFILIATES IN SPAIN, UGT AND STV.

3. CARLSEN DECLARED THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN SPAIN DESPITE PROMISES OF LIBERALIZATION. SPAIN, HE SAID, IS TILL RULED BY THE FRANCO REGIME. CARLSEN ADDED THAT THE ETUC WAS SPEAKING OUT IN ORDER TO COUNTERBALANCE THE FALSE PICTURES BEING PAINTED BY TRAVELLING SPANISH DIPLOMATS.

4. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE CARLSEN DID NOT MAKE ANY DIRECT REFERENCES TO THE ROLE OF WORKER COMMISSIONS IN THE "STRUGGLE FOR TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL FREEDOME." HOWEVER, THE PREVIOUS DAY HE TOLD A GROUP OF EIGHT BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES THAT IT WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE TO THINK THAT THE STRUGGLE COULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARRIED OUT WITHOUT THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF THE WORKER COMMISSIONS. HE REAFFIRMED THE RECENT ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION TO WORK THROUGH THE UGT AND STV IN COORDINATION WITH THE ICFTU AND WCL, BUT ADDED THAT SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF ALL OPPOSITION FORCES TO PULL TOGETHER. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD INCLUDE THE USO, THE CATELONIAN SOC AND THE WORKER COMMISSIONS. NOTE: LAST WEEK THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COM-

MITTEE AVOIDED MAKE DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE WORKER COMMISSIONS IN CALLING FOR JOINT ACTION BY DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN SPAIN.

5. ETUC ASSISTANT SECRETARY JEAN KULAKOWSKI WAS WITH CARLSEN DURING THE MEETING WITH THE LABOR ATTACHES AND BOTH OFFICIALS GAVE HIGH MARKS TO WORKER COMMISSION LEADER CAMACHO, DESCRIBING HIM AS A MAN OF "SUBSTANCE AND HIGH INTELLIGENCE" AND ABONA FIDE TRADE UNION LEADER. THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF CAMACHO WERE GAINED DURING CAMACHO'S RECENT VISIT TO ETUC HEAD-QUARTERS IN BRUSSELS. CARLSEN AND KULAKOWSKI WERE EQUALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CAMACHO, ALTHOUGH CARLSEN SUBSEQUENTLY BACKED OFF SOMEWHAT SAY THAT "AFTER ALL, WE HAVE TO MEET WITH PEOPLE WHO COME TO US"

ADDING THAT USO AND SOC LEADERS HAD ALSO VISITED ETUC HEADQUARTERS RECENTLY AND AGAIN UNDERSCORING THE NEED FOR "ALL OPPOSITION FORCES" TO COOPERATE IN SPAIN.

6. COMMENT: WHILE ICFTU AND ETUC VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN SPAIN COINCIDE AND THERE DOES APPEAR TO BE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO HAVE A COORDINATED POLICY IN SUPPORT OF TRADE UNIONS THERE, TOP OFFICIALS IN THE SECRETARIATS OF THE ICFTU AND ETUC SEEM TO DIFFER ON THE QUESTION OF THE ROLE OF CAMACHO AND THE WORKER COMMISSIONS IN THE PROCESS. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT COMES OUT OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MARCH 11 AND 12 IN LUXEMBOURG WHERE SPAIN IS ON THE AGENDA. HINTON

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